



HAWAIIANS SEEK LANDS

Many Leases Under Homestead Laws.

CANE LANDS MAY BE THUS SETTLED

Increased Demand for the Small Holdings and Tendency to Take Up Homes.

MORE than 150 homestead leases for land have been issued from the Land Bureau since it was taken over by the present Commission. This outlines the policy which will be followed by the office in the future as in the past and the success which has followed it so far indicates that the Hawaiians are in accord with the methods which are being followed to keep the lands in the possession of the natives of the Islands.

Commissioner E. S. Boyd, who recently returned from a visit to the other islands, said yesterday that he was more than pleased with the results of the general policy of the land office, as the leases which had been granted in Oahu before his taking hold of the bureau had been productive of great good to the people. He continued: "I found that many of the holders of these leases, most of them Portuguese, some natives and several Americans, had made excellent crops and had good returns."

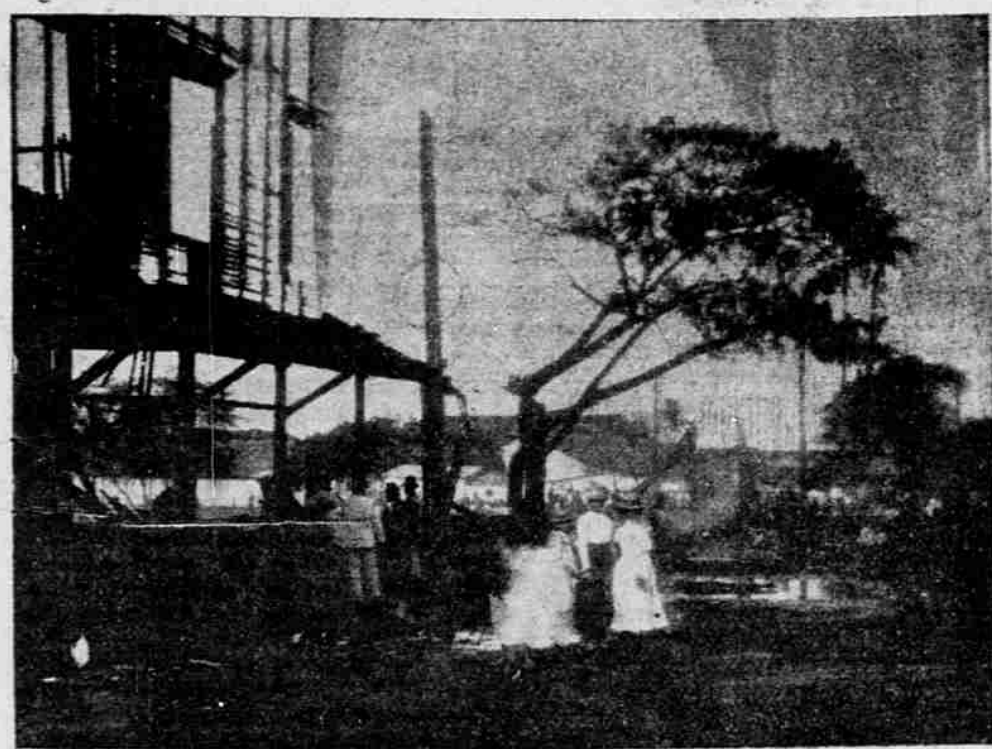
Some of the homesteads have earned for their holders during the past year in addition to the small crops of the necessary fruits and vegetables \$1,500 in the value of the cane which has been turned into the mill. The homesteaders have had excellent arrangements with the Oahu plantation, securing such contracts as will give them assurance that their cane will be milled when the proper time arrives, and in case this is not done the plantation stands the loss from the deterioration. This gives the men a chance to work their cane to the highest advantage.

The success which has been attained by the men who have followed this plan leads us to believe that there will be similar results follow the extension of this policy when leases upon other lands come in. It will be the plan to open lands, where there is not a large expenditure for irrigation necessary, for the taking up by homesteaders. I shall try to have a law passed increasing the amount of land which may be taken up in this way from sixteen acres to fifty acres. This will give to each homesteader enough land to insure him a good crop and permit the raising of food supplies upon his own lands. In such cases, however, I shall use only the homestead lease, for in my opinion there is no other way in which the lands may be held for the people. If there is the ordinary purchase lease only a short time will elapse before the entire amount of sugar land will be in the hands of the planters. Of course the plantations cannot hold this land in fee, but there will be found many ways to get around this point and men with an interest in the estates will be found ready to buy the lands.

"I find that the Hawaiians themselves are ready to believe that the form of homestead lease is the best for them. If we give the average native a piece of land he sells it the day after he secures the title. This, of course, is not true of the latter-day Hawaiians, for they are acute in business and are not inclined to alienate the lands they may hold. For this reason the homestead lease is most appropriate at this time, for if the lease is entered into for a family, there is nothing in the way of the heirs surrendering the same and the purchase lease being substituted. This does not mean that leases are given only to the Hawaiians, for all are treated alike and many Americans are taking up the vacant lands."

Judging from the methods of the plantation owners at Oahu there will be no objection on the part of the mill estates to this distribution of the lands for there will be the same amount of cane grown as formerly and there will be less trouble with the labor conditions. The sugar industry is the backbone of the country, the coffee is in an experimental stage and nothing should be done which would jeopardize the future of the country. In my opinion the application of the American system of land laws and land division would do this, for it would lead to the planting upon the subdivisions of a plantation of the men who would take up

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE COSTLY FIRE WHICH DESTROYED THE STOCKYARDS



AMONG THE RUINS.



ONE OF THE VICTIMS.

TWO BUILDINGS, as many cottages, a score of vehicles and eighty horses and a large amount of feed, harness and tools sums up the losses by the burning of the Stockyards stables early yesterday morning. The money value of the property is placed at a figure which will be close to \$75,000, by conservative estimates, though the gross figure of Treasurer Ward is \$100,000. The insurance upon the buildings and contents, carried by the company, amounts to \$35,000. Much of the loss falls upon private parties, whose horses and carriages, drays and harness were in the burned building.

All day yesterday a crowd gathered about the scene of the destructive fire, while upon the still smoldering ruins there were poured several streams of water. Heaps dotted the wreck, marking the death-spot of some animal which had not been released from its flame-swept prison. In nearby stables were other dumb sufferers by the fire, under treatment which may lead to recovery from the severe burns, while fresh carcasses in the lots behind the ashes showed that many of the horses, badly injured in the blaze, some blinded by it, had been put out of misery by the veterinarian. The horses destroyed would have an average value of \$150, and few of their private owners carried any insurance upon their property.

The loss of the corporation while complete as far as the property of an inflammable nature goes, will be reduced by the added value of the real property, and this with the accounts and the insurance is expected to cover all the damage. The safes of the concern were opened yesterday and everything of value was found intact. The books were removed to the temporary office which has been opened in the Wright block, and the task of straightening out the complications was taken up. There was \$1,000 in cash in the safe, that amount having been collected after banking hours on Tuesday. The value of the feed, harness and tools which were the property of the company will be found at once and a statement made to the meeting of the board of directors today. The loss upon the building under construction will be almost complete as it had not been turned over by the contractor.

That no lives were lost in the fire is due to the coolness of Joe Silva, the night watchman. When the fire broke out he worked hard to save the stock and then remembering that his own family and that of Manuel, another Portuguese employee of the stables, were asleep in two cottages at the side of the main building, he saved all at the risk of his own life.

Silva did all that was possible to save the frantic horses in his charge, working with might and main so long as it was possible to remain in the stifling heat and the suffocating smoke of the burning building. He was busy everywhere cutting halters and hauling carriages.

He stayed at his post faithfully, and only once did he leave it; this was when he remembered his wife and children. They were sleeping in a cottage adjoining the stables, and were aroused only when the cottage was in flames and full of stifling smoke. Silva rushed in and carried his suffocating wife out of the cottage and returned to the flames several times, each time to rescue one of his six children. When his family had been rescued, Silva aroused the family of Manuel, who were sleeping in the same building, and they all escaped.

The lands in the interest of the estate, instead of for their own homes. "Of course many leases are still being made upon the purchase basis but the greater part of the agricultural lands which are now being taken will be found to be under this class of lease. The best feature of this is that the Hawaiians are being given homes for the future."

who were sleeping under the burning roof of an adjoining cottage on the Stock Yards grounds, by throwing stones through the window and shouting. But for the coolness and bravery of Silva several lives would surely have been lost. After seeing to the safety of the human lives endangered, the Portuguese rushed back into the stables and did what was possible for the crazed and shrieking animals.

A mounted patrolman, George Kaeo, was among the first arrivals at the scene of the conflagration, and did splendid work in the rescue of the horses. He first cut loose a horse attached to Love's bakery wagon, hitched near the entrance of the building, then ran around to the rear, attracted by the cries of the suffering animals. He attempted to get into the stables proper, but the heat prevented this. While he hesitated he was joined by Silva, the watchman, and the two men went into the auxiliary stables, the walls of which the flames were beginning to burn.

They kicked out the boards of the rear wall and drove the horses out into the marsh. These are the horses that wandered away, there being no enclosure. The two men then went to the second stable, which was a mass of flame, and led out several horses, one by one, to the corrals adjoining, passing directly under the flames. They continued this work until it was impossible to enter the stables, and the suffering animals, frantically struggling in their stalls, had to be abandoned to the heat and the suffocating clouds of smoke. It is believed that most of the horses were destroyed by suffocation rather than by fire.

As to the horses lost, men who have been every day about the stables, estimate that eighty were destroyed, and that nearly that number escaped. It is still impossible to know exactly how many are still alive, as many of the animals ran out of the corrals and strayed away. Several horses that are known to have left the stables, have not yet been found, though search is being made for them.

Several of the animals were severely burned, and three had to be shot yesterday. A number of others are under the care of Dr. Shaw for treatment. Among the horses saved were F. H. Louck's Mesquite, and Nettie H. both well known racers.

The losers of private property, so far as known, are: Pacific Hardware Company, two horses and two drays; J. F. Morgan, two horses and three wagons; Bergstrom Music Company, horse and delivery wagon; L. de L. Ward, C. A. Rice, C. G. Ballentyne, C. P. Grimwood and Dr. E. C. Waterhouse, each a horse and carriage. Last week five hackmen of the No. 191 stand took their hacks and horses from the Stock Yards Stables and put them in the new stables on Hotel street, opposite the hotel. Thus they escaped the fate that met the hacks and horses of eighteen other hackmen, among whom are the following: Spencer, Frank Lillis, Hugh Rooney, Tom Corry, Joe Clark, Pierce, and several Chinese and Japanese. There were twenty-two hacks in all at the stables, but four had not been put up when the fire started. Their loss is total.

It is very probable that the fire was of incendiary origin, though the thorough work of the flames left no traces, the complete destruction of the place removing any clue that might have verified the supposition. Last week there was a small fire in the building under construction, which was thought to have a peculiar origin, to say the least. A pair of overalls saturated with oil and paint, were found stuffed underneath the flooring of the new building, evidently having been put there for the purpose of kindling a fire.

Many persons incline to the theory that the fire was set at the instigation of the two Chinese stable hands who were recently discharged by the company, or of their Oriental friends, who were highly incensed at the action of the company in sending the two Celestials away.

Another possible explanation is offered in the information of W. E. Lee, a South American workman for the Palolo Land Company, who says that on his way to his work at 5:30 o'clock on last Friday morning he saw two Porto Rican vagrants emerging from the alleyway leading from the Stock Yard Stables, and that on the following morning at the same hour, he saw the same two men at the same place. It is presumed that the two vagrants were using the hay compartments of the stables as a lodging place.

Mr. Lee says it is the habit of Porto Ricans to smoke incessantly, and oftentimes they go to sleep smoking cigarettes. He claims that he warned Manager Rice against the two vagrants, foreseeing the danger of fire. He has not seen the two men since, on his morning trips out King street, and does not know whether they continued sleeping in the hay or not. It is possible that they may have slept in the stables Tuesday night, and that the fire was due to their carelessness in smoking. It is also possible that, if this is so, they may have burned to death in the building.

The new building which was to have been occupied by the company within a week or ten days, was only partially completed, the Mainland strikes having delayed the shipment of windows and doors. It cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000, and was being erected under the direction of Beardslee and Page, the architects, by Contractor Smith. The harness shop of the Stock Yards Company was situated in a portion of the building, and a portion of the second story was also occupied. Other portions of it had been rented to different persons.

The big fire-proof safe was opened yesterday afternoon. It took two men over a half hour to open the outer doors with a sledge hammer. The outer parts of the safe were warped and twisted, having been heated to a white heat. The outside walls were still hot at noon time, and it was 3 o'clock before the safe could be handled. When it was opened it was found that the inner compartments had not even been blistered. Another smaller safe was also in the fire. It was only a skeleton safe, and was destroyed completely. It contained nothing of value.

Fire Chief Charles H. Thurston was seen last night in regard to the Stock Yards fire, and he expressed his thorough satisfaction with the work of the fire department. "We made a quick turnout," said he, "and there was not a single thing that went wrong. The only trouble was that we did not receive the alarm until the fire had a good start. As soon as the alarm was turned in we were all out and on our way to the fire. Engines No. 1 and No. 2 started at the same time, and took the hydrants at King and Alapai streets, and in front of the Castle Home on King street. Later the chemical engine arrived, and engine No. 3 came in from Waikiki, taking up positions further up on King street. All four engines were working for a time, but as soon as we got the fire under control, all but No. 2 were sent back. We played the hose upon the ruins and stayed on the ground with engine No. 2 until 7:30 this morning, to see that everything was all right."

"Later on, towards morning, we moved down to the artesian well on Hustace Lane and drew on the water there. Everything went nicely, and each fireman worked valiantly and well. Better work could not have been done under the circumstances, and I wish to express my thorough satisfaction with the services of all the men, and of the entire fire department." Mr. Thurston, in discussing the difficulties met with, referred to the interference of the electric wires and the danger of electrocution to the firemen and to the crowds that always assembled at a fire.

"The current should be turned off by the company the moment the alarm is turned in," said he. "The danger of live wires impedes progress with the work, and greatly increases the danger to life. The electric company did better last night than at the Hall fire, however, and as soon as they realize how important a thing it is that the current should be promptly turned off, I think they will attend to the matter more seriously. At the Hall fire the numerous live wires were a constant menace to life, and the narrowness of the streets gave us very little room to work. Owing to the breadth of the street in front of the Stock Yards last night the danger of wires was not so great, and the current was

STRIKE IS SOON OVER

Cane Loaders Tie Up Ewa One Hour.

FIRM RESISTANCE BRINGS RELIEF

Twenty of One Hundred Men Return to Work and None Leave Plantation.

STRIKING Japanese stopped work at the Ewa plantation mill for one hour yesterday, and then the strike, the first of the kind with which the managers have had to deal, with the knowledge that the men who went out could not go to the next plantation and secure work, was broken. The strikers were cane loaders, one hundred in number, and before night twenty of the original number were at work, and the places of the others had been filled.

The strike, while it was a very small one in itself, is considered to have been only a pretext to try the temper of the management, which, had it been successful, would have been followed by a general demand. The men wanted only service regulations, according to the agents of the plantation, the principal grievance being the laying of tracks and the bringing of the cane cars closer to the work. This would involve the expenditure of a large sum in the making of tracks, and would, as well, cost heavily in the serving of the cars for loading. There was one report that more money was demanded, but this is denied on authority.

When the Japanese first appeared with their demand they were informed by Manager Renton that the conditions of their employment could not be changed, and that any of them who wanted to quit work could get his money at the cashier's office. The interview was closed with this. A few of the men went to work, but the places of the others were filled by men taken from the other departments of plantation work. There was only one hour lost in supplying the shortage of the loaders, and then the work went on as usual. During the day the strikers lost more of their numbers, until at the close of the day there were twenty of the original loaders at work. More significant than this, however, is the fact that not one of the strikers called for his pay, which would indicate that the men are not ready to leave employment, and that they will go back to work very soon.

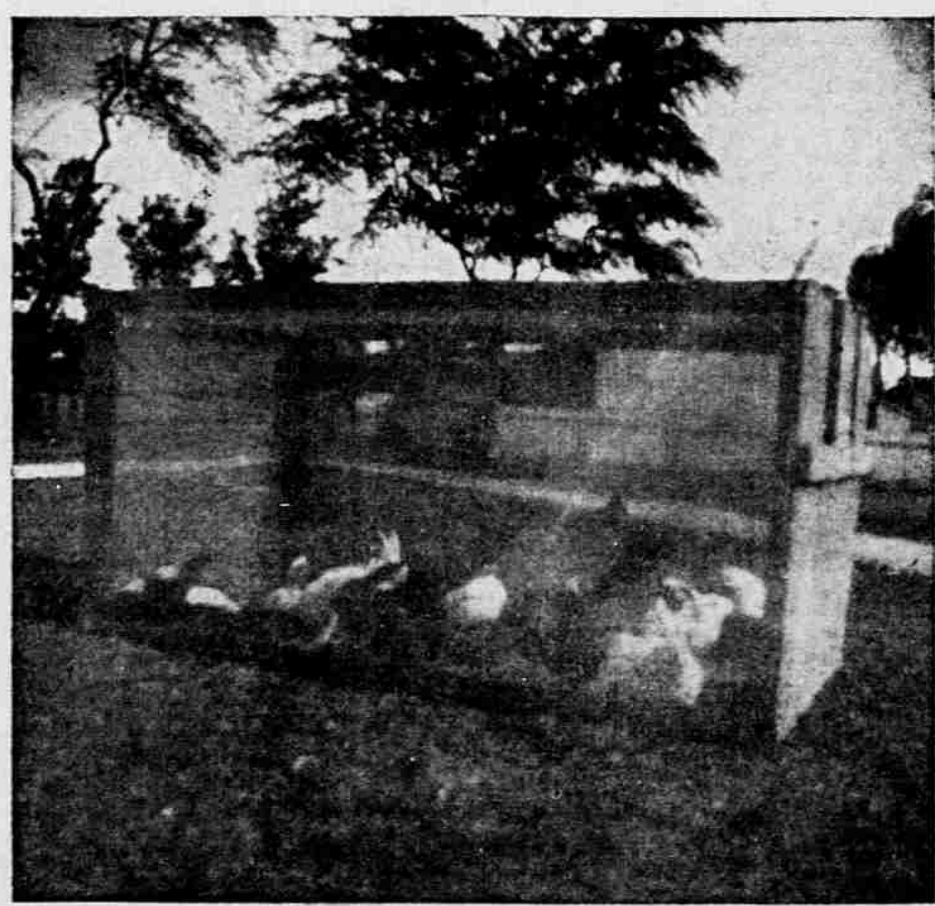
What has been apprehension on the part of many persons has been changed to security, in that the firmness of the management of the Ewa plantation has shown that there was no temptation with such strikes in the future. That the men cannot get employment at other plantations while there is a strike on at one, is thought to give the management the security which will enable any further demonstration to be handled as was this one. There is a belief that the strike came as a result of the publications as to the conferences of the planters and managers, and further, too, that had this not been met with firmness there would have been a spreading of the trouble which might have involved other branches of the mill's work.

The strike came on so suddenly that it is the opinion of the plantation men that it was the work of an outside influence, probably some one from this city. Many mornings there was no evidence of any discontent, and the first that was known of the change in the disposition of the men was a short time before the strikers appeared and made their demand, when they seemed to work with less than usual vigor and determination. There is a general opinion that Japanese, who have for their object the bringing about of a general strike, decided to begin at Ewa, and the attempt which proved abortive was in this line.

There is no union of the Japanese now except in the protective associations, which are charitable and beneficial organizations, on each plantation. There is no labor order and there will be none, as there is lacking the elements which have made similar unions successful in other places. Recently an attempt was made to organize such an order here, and elaborate circulars were gotten out, and the proposed walking delegate went about and made addresses, but he was not able to secure enough support to make the order stick. Since that time there has been no general move, and the way in which the first movement was met would seem to indicate that the plan is dead.

Japanese who are interested in the plantations express satisfaction with the result of the strike, and say that the effect will be to prevent further attempts to coerce the plantations in this manner. The leaders of the Japanese colony are not in sympathy with such moves, and they will be able, without doubt, to influence their countrymen.

THE CAPTURED HARES AND RABBITS IN THE JAIL YARD



JAILOR WM. HENRY of Oahu prison is a very much disappointed man, because of the dismissal of the Belgian hare case. He had been counting upon a hare and rabbit stew ever since Sunday, when some thirty odd rabbits and Belgian hares, were turned over to him for safe keeping. A prison was hastily improvised for their use, and the rabbits gambled and played to their hearts' content with no thought of Jailer Henry's prospective rabbit stew. The illustration above is a photograph of the Belgian hares and rabbits taken in Sunday's raid, and confined in a cage in Oahu prison yard.

"I've tasted Belgian hares," said Jailer Henry as he looked longingly into the box containing the fat and juicy bunnies. "They make fine eating; I wouldn't mind a stew just now." During their few brief days of imprisonment the rabbits and hares were fed on ti leaves and vegetables and a few days more of prison life, would have fattened them into a marketable state.

The law gives any police officer power to destroy rabbits wherever found, though it does not specify in what manner the destruction shall take place. It is safe to say, however, that the annihilation of the rabbits would have meant a stew for some body.

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